からくりサーカス
24
藤田和日郎

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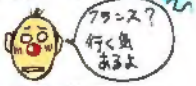
燃え盛る丸山遊廓の業火の中で、
アンジェリーナは決意する。
自分の秘密はばれたとて、
正二郎の命は守ります。
「私はあなたに、絶対に
死んで欲しくないのだもの！」
そして勝の記憶の旅は、
いよいよ核心に迫り行く。
あいつが、あの人形が、そしてあの男も！
明治の世の中、全ては日本へやってくる。
ご存じ、超熱血機巧活劇
また一歩真実に近づく第24巻であります。

Le Cirque de Karakuri
KAZUHIRO FUJITA PRESENTS

取材のためフランス行った 長崎編

by うふふたかこひろう



吉原 エンジョイ ケイ

この長崎編を描くにあたって方言指導をしてくれた、同業の村枝賢一君に、深く感謝の意を表したいと思うばい。

「村枝はん、ほんなこつありがとじゃけんのう。ぬしゃ『RED』の執筆中やというのに、はっちゃきんなってワシの方言指導ばしてくれたっしょや。『なんも、なんも。』なんち言うてくれてたばってん、ワシは舞うごっつ嬉しゅうてかなわんかっとってんちんとんしゃん。」……何だと？間違っとる？少しだけな。だが心と心は伝わった！…伝わっとらんかもしれん？ だが、誠意はあった!!……伝わらなきゃダメじゃないかって!?

藤田和日郎

KAZUHIRO FUJITA PRESENTS

ブカブカ、トンドン。道行く坊ちゃん、嬢ちゃん、ただいま当サーカスでは大喜の長崎を舞台にしての大ロマンスを上演してますぞよ、そしてそのお話は、いよいよこの幕クライマックスの明治時代、「黒賀村事件」の始まりであります。大丈夫、「からくりサーカス」は、何時、何時入りましてもお楽しみいただけるので御座居ます。では、「からくりサーカス」第24巻、坊ちゃん嬢ちゃん、ゆったりと見てくださいな。

●AD／伊波光司 ●ロゴ&カバーデザイン／益子典子+ベイブリッジ・スタジオ ●カバーイラスト／藤田和日郎

24

からくりサーカス

Le Cirque de Karakuri

藤田和日郎（ふじたかずひろ）

★前巻までのあらすじ★

黒賀村を訪れた才賀勝は、そこで、勝に脳を〈転送〉したという父・貞義のとんでもない企みを知る。

そして、勝を貞義と決めつける黒賀村の人形使いに捕らえられた勝は、他界したはずの祖父・正二と再会。

ところが、貞義への恨みから勝を殺そうとする正二は、自分の記憶が溶けた「生命の水」を飲ませる。

それは、大きな謎が明かされてゆく長い記憶の旅だった。

江戸時代後期の長崎。少年時代の正二＝正二郎はオランダ人医師・白銀と出会い、秘密の師弟関係を結ぶ。

それから25年後、遊女として身を隠す人形破壊者・アンジェリーナと運命的な出逢いをする……!!

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■藤田和日郎■

CIRCUS~FINAL ACT
ACT 15
THE BURNING BROTHEL

SFX THROUGHOUT CHAPTER: BELLS CLANGING; MEN YELLING, WOMEN SCREAMING; PANICKED RUNNING

H-HOLD ON, SEN-SEI!
I'M OFF!
YOU'LL WIND UP DEAD IF YA DON'T GET OUTTA HERE ...!!

WH-ERE'S THAT SAMU-RAI?
WHAT...? HE WENT INTO TH' BACK PARLOR WHILE HE WAS GETTIN' TH'FIRE STARTED!

WH-WHERE'RE YA GOIN' ?!
I'M AFRAID I MUST DECLINE.
I HAVE NO NEED OF AN ESCORT.

WELL, ANYWAY, OIRAN, LEMME GUIDE YA OUT. COME THIS WAY, QUICK!

PLEASE HELP THE OTHERS INSTEAD.

わぁぁぁやぁぁぁ
ガンガンガン
SOU-NA-NUSHI! WHERE'S THAT MIS-CREANT RES-PON-SIBLE FER ALL THIS?!
OH, SEN-SEI!
HANG IN THERE, BUN-JUU-ROU-SAMA.

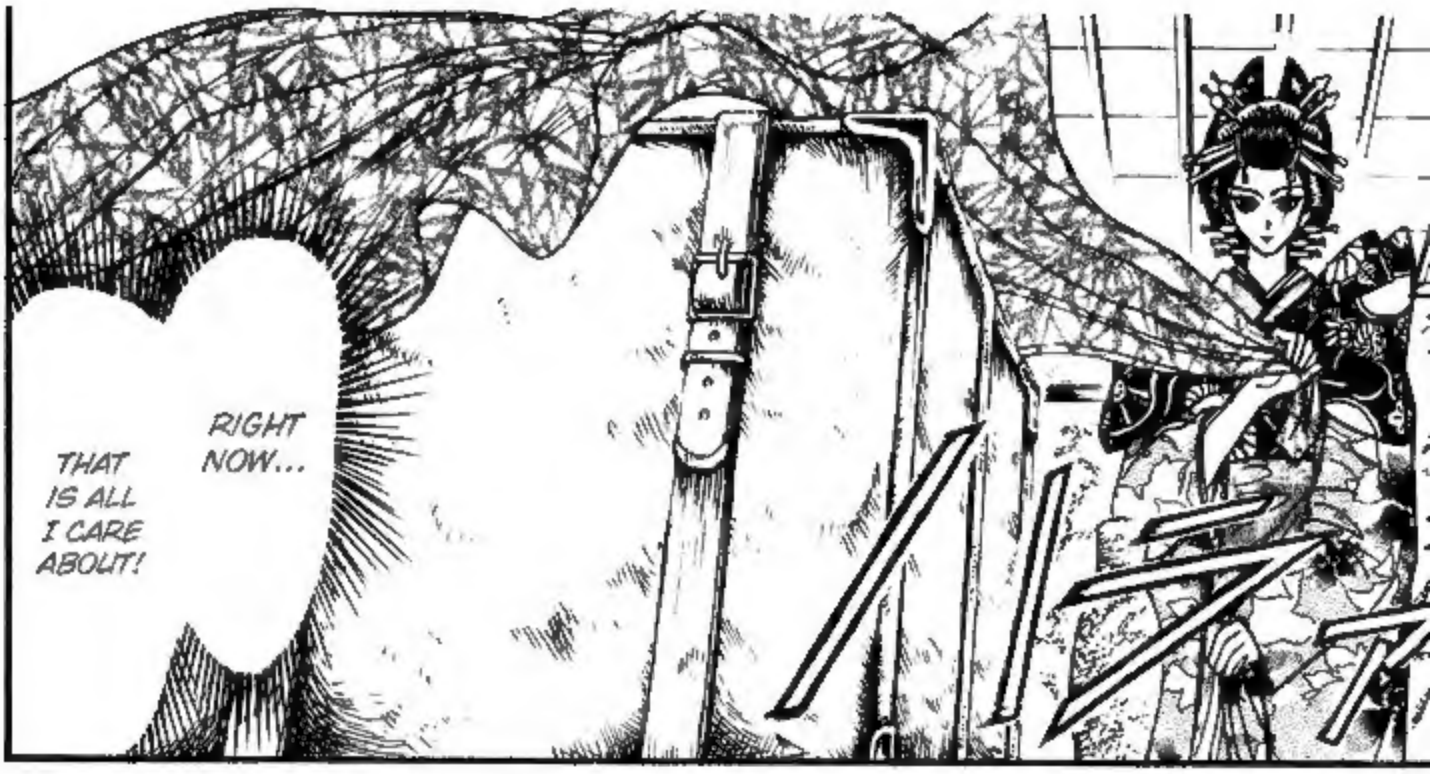
WH-ERE'S YER WELL ?!
WHAT ARE YOU PLAN-NING?

I SEE.
THAT WAY. HE DRAGGED THE OIRAN AND HER APPRENTICE OVER WHERE THE FIRE'S AT ITS STRON-GEST!

I'D BE ABLE T'FALL IN LOVE WITH A WOMAN THEN.
WHAT IS HE?

WENT DASHING OFF THE MOMENT HE HEARD THERE WERE HOSTAGES. BUT WHY?
THAT MAN...
HE'S JUST A DOCTOR... AND AN ORDINARY HUMAN...

わぁぁ
きゃぁぁ


RIGHT NOW...
THAT IS ALL I CARE ABOUT!

I'M OFF!
BUT, SENSEI ...!
THE MAN YER UP AGAINST IS SAID TO BE A MASTER IN SOME SCHOOL OR ANOTHER.
AN' YA AIN'T EVEN ARMED RIGHT NOW! IF YA GO CHARGIN' IN, HE'LL JUST TURN IT AROUND ON YA!

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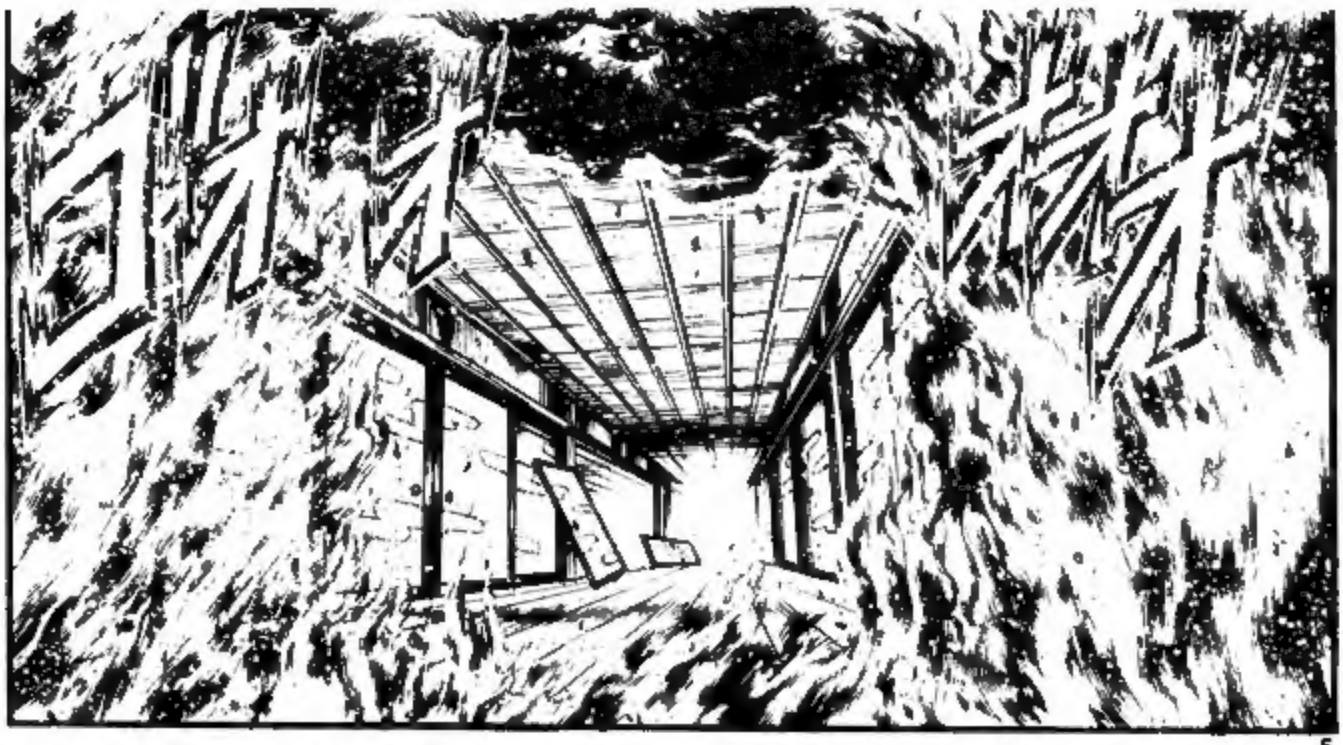
SEN-SEI ...!

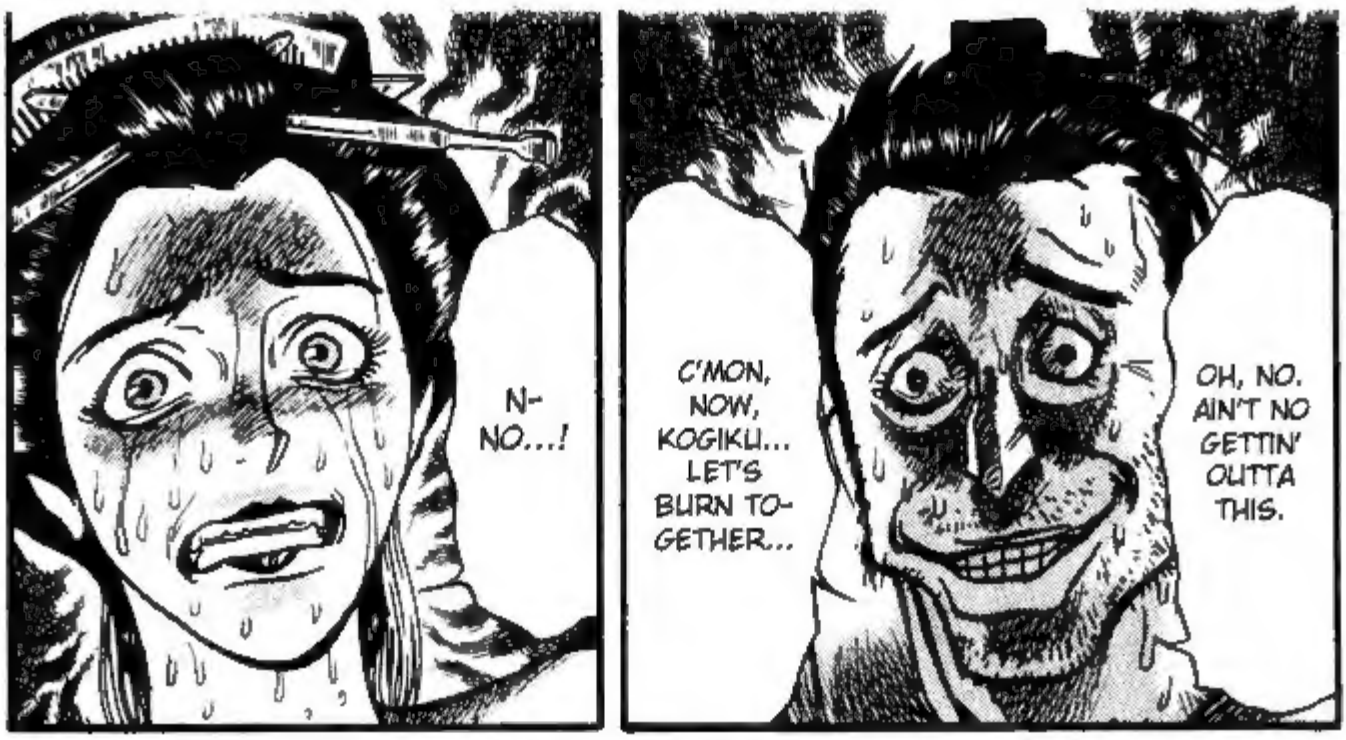
SAVIN' PEOPLE IS A DOC-TOR'S JOB.

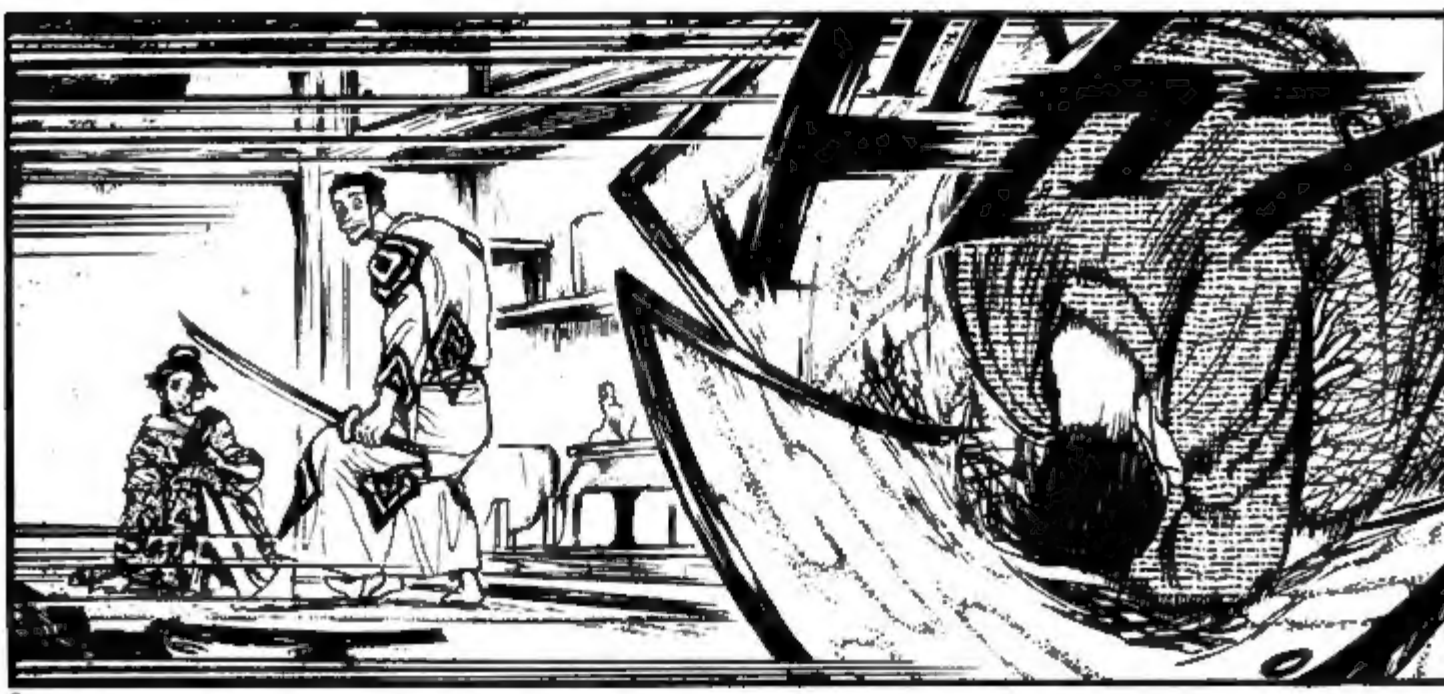
SORRY FER THE TROUBLE, BUT TAKE CARE'A THESE, PLEASE.



HEH HEH HEH HEH ...
DIE WITH ME, KOGIKU...

I AIN'T GOT A CENT T'MY NAME.
I GOT NOTHIN' LEFT...
NO... PLEASE... LET US GO...!


N-
NO...!
C'MON, NOW, KOGIKU... LET'S BURN TO-GETHER...
OH, NO. AIN'T NO GETTIN' OUTTA THIS.



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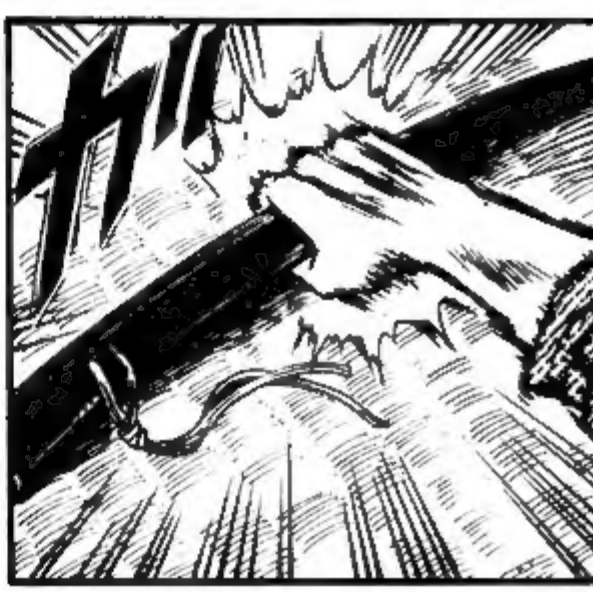


THE HELL'RE YOU?!

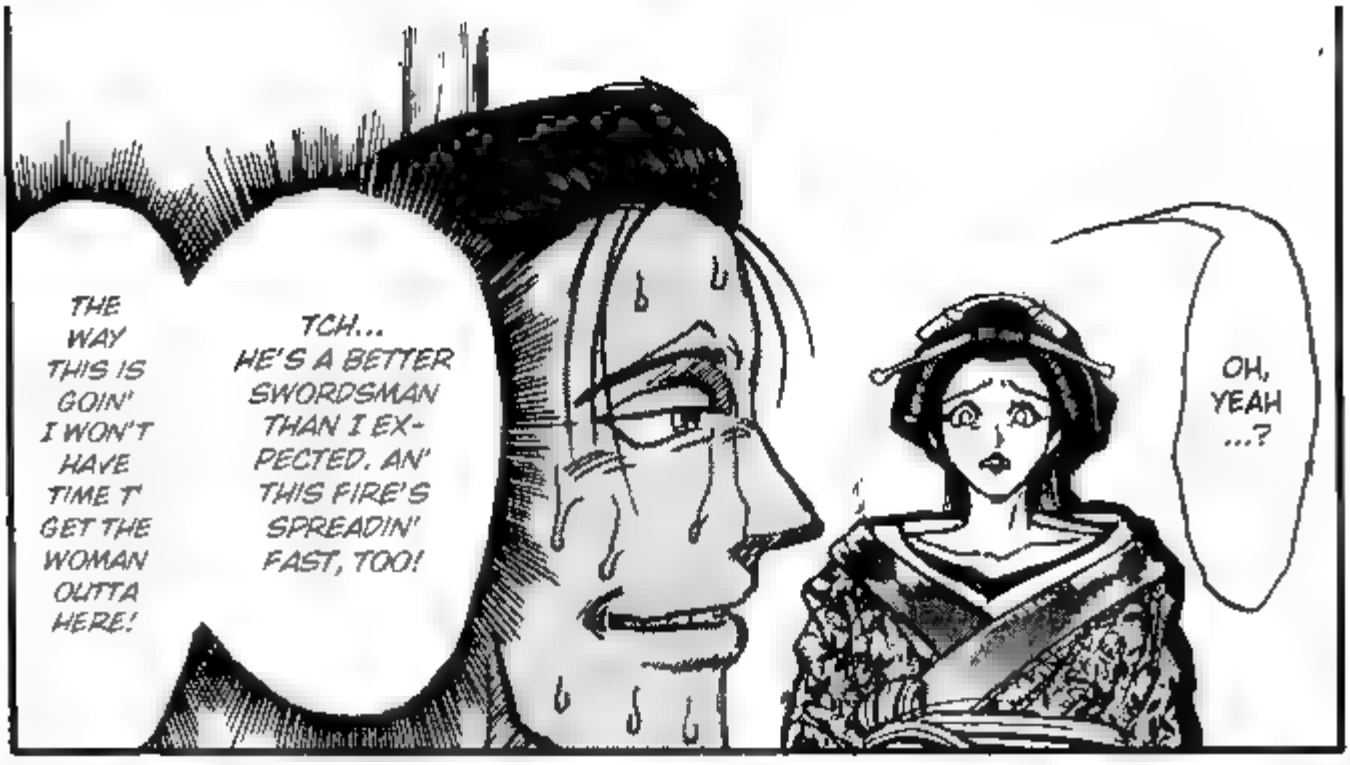
RIGHT!
TAKE THE OIRAN AN' GIT OUTTA HERE!

I'M TOO SCARED...! I CAN'T STAND UP...!
ONEE-SAN, HURRY!

I'M A DOC-TOR!
GOT A PROB-LEM WITH THAT ?!

I'LL GO 'N' GET SOME-ONE T' HELP!
I'LL...
A DOCTOR, HUH?! AIN'T NOBODY CALLED FER YER SERVICES! STAY OUTTA THIS!
HELL NO!!

Y'AIN'T HALF BAD, BUT IT'S ALL OVER FOR YA NOW. JUST LIKE ME...
FWE-HEHEHEH! WERE YA PLANNIN' T'GET BY JUST HITTIN' MY SWORD WITH THAT SCABBARD?


THE WAY THIS IS GOIN' I WON'T HAVE TIME T' GET THE WOMAN OUTTA HERE!
TCH... HE'S A BETTER SWORDSMAN THAN I EXPECTED. AN' THIS FIRE'S SPREADIN' FAST, TOO!
OH, YEAH ...?

SFX: KOFF KOFF

T-TOUNO-
DAYUU!

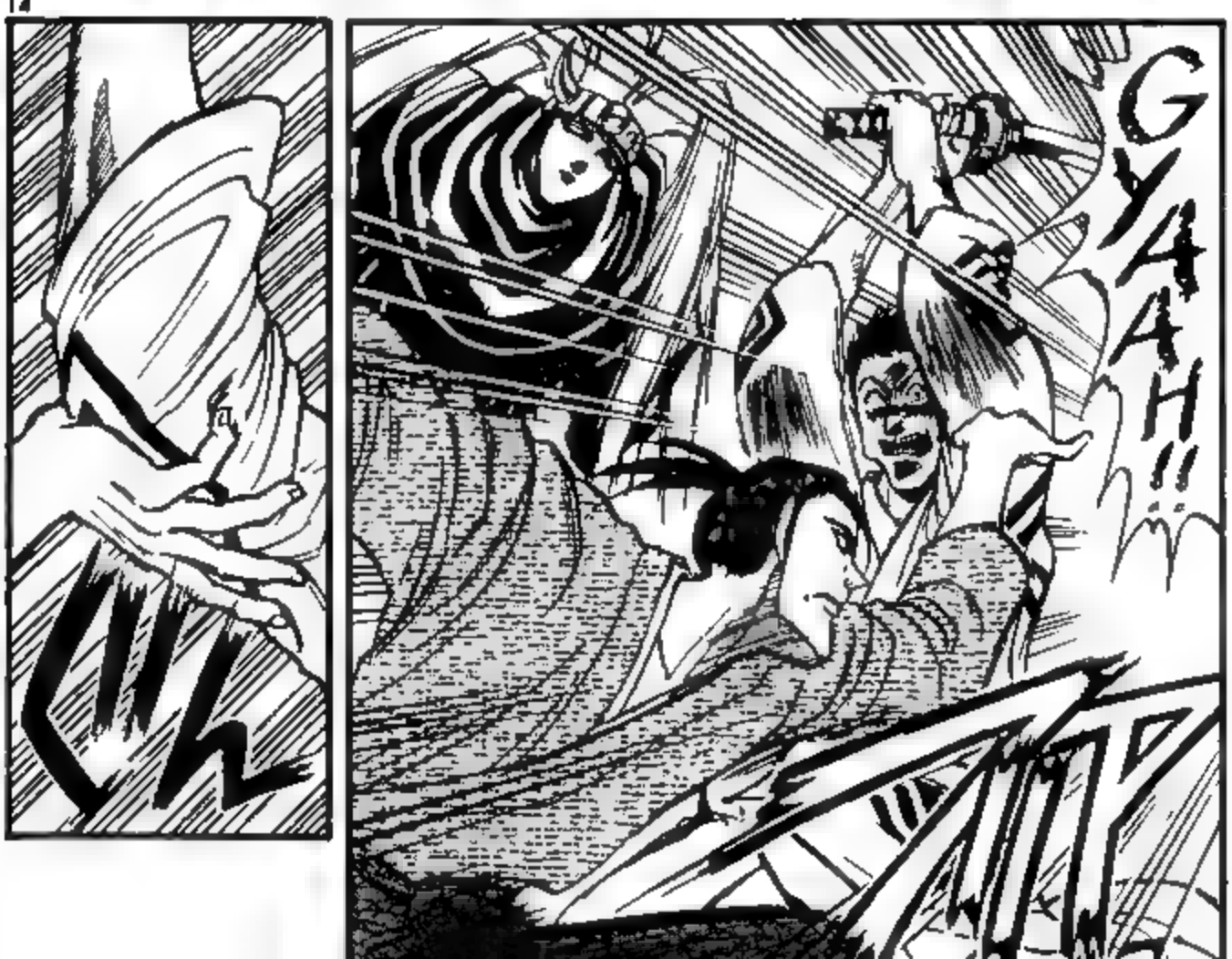
ARE YA CHALLENGIN' ME WITH SEKISHUUSAI'S SWORDLESS CAPTURE TECHNIQUE? THAT IT?
WHAT'S UP, DOC?

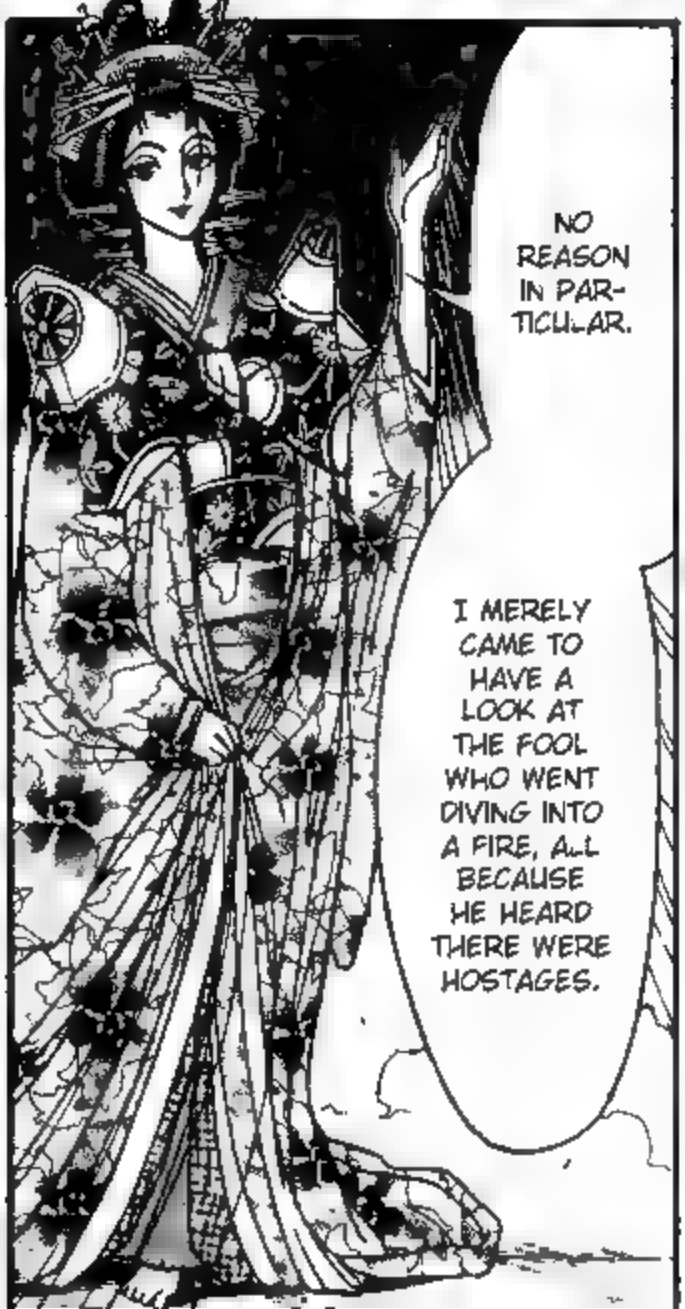
LET'S GO, THEN!!

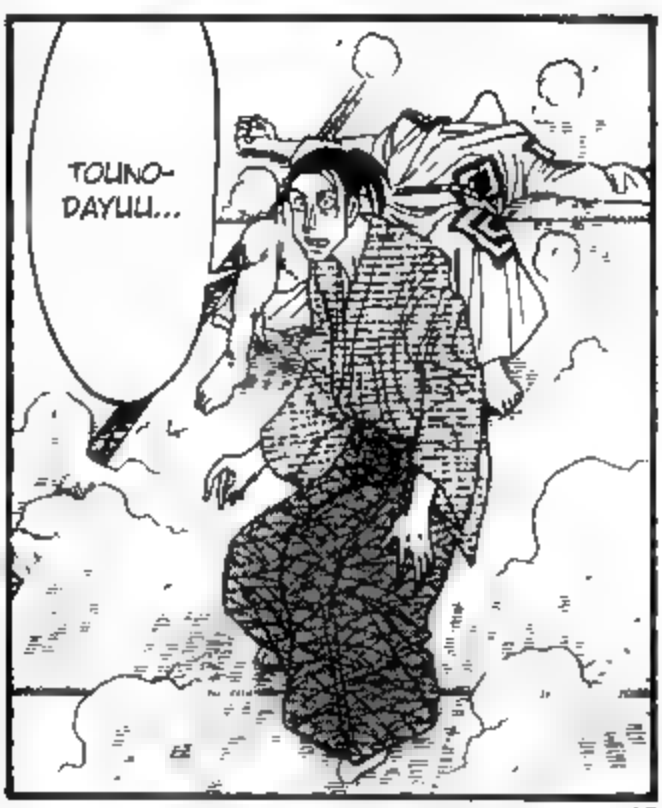
!

WH-WHAT THE HELL?!

14




NO REASON IN PARTICULAR.
I MERELY CAME TO HAVE A LOOK AT THE FOOL WHO WENT DIVING INTO A FIRE, ALL BECAUSE HE HEARD THERE WERE HOSTAGES.


TOUNO-DAYUU...

WHY... WHY'RE YOU...

HM ...?
THIS IS BAI YIN-SENSEI'S PUPPET, AIN'T IT?!
THIS... THIS PUPPET HERE ...
WHERE DIDJA GET THIS?
HMPH! WELL, SORRY, BUT THAT AIN'T WHAT I WAS ASKIN' ABOUT!

BACK WHEN I WAS A KID, WITH BAI YIN-SENSEI.
THIS IS TH' PUPPET I BUILT ...

AH ...
WHAT DID YOU JUST ...
WH ...
17
THEY'RE COMING BACK!
AH... IT'S THAT MAN...! HIS MEMORIES, DISSOLVED IN MY BLOOD...

SFX: CRACKING

SFX: SNAP

SFX: CLATTER

translation by funnuraba.tumblr.com

NOTES

By the Edo period, there were no more battles being fought, and the status of samurai was largely ornamental. Samurai were limited to an income provided by the lord they served, and forbidden from owning land. Unlucky individuals were relegated to very low-level duties and subsistance pay, and *rounin* with no master at all generally fell into poverty and a life of gambling or crime. The samurai in this chapter presumably took to dulling the pain in the red light district, and decided to take along his favorite evening companion on his way out.

pg. 7: The younger girl is a *kamuro* (禿), an attendant/servant to the older *oiran* who's also learning the trade by observation. She won't finish her apprenticeship until she's an adult, but she has probably been sold into the red light district by parents with financial troubles. Courtesans were legally sanctioned by the Japanese government at this point (though confined to certain areas), and the profession did not carry the same stigma as the Western concept of prostitution. There were women in the red light district who provided sex exclusively, but the more expensive ones were considered legitimate entertainers whose repertoire included sexual activities. Despite the lesser social stigma compared to other countries, women and girls were still trafficked and sold into the trade, and the majority were never able to save up enough money to leave it.

pg. 11: Yagyuu Sekishuusai Munetoshi: a famous *kenjutsu-ka* (practioner of swordsmanship) who devised a method of disarming an opponent with his bare hands called *mutou-dori*.

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Thanks to Judash137 on the mangafox forums for removing the Japanese text, and to the anonymous person who tipped me off to that!

Any group with more experience or skill is welcome to take over at any time or to redo chapters I have already done if they are below the quality that this series deserves.